Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /061 W

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R 231727Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1481 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS AMEMBASSY PARIS USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10430

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: EC FRUIT PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1977

1. THE EC STATISTICAL OFFICE IN LUXEMBOURG PUBLISHED ITS MID-AUGUST ESTIMATE OF 1977 FRUIT PRODUCTION IN THE EC, AS FOLLOWS:

-- 1977 RELATIVE TO
 AVG.72-76 1976 EST. 1977 AVG.72-76 1976
 - (METRIC TONS) (PERCENT)

APPLES 6,697 6,487 5,205 -22 -20
PEARS 2,562 2,678 2,010 -22 -25
PEACHES 1,710 1,932 1,556 -9 -19
APRICOTS 203 232 163 -20 -30
CHERRIES 541 543 399 -26 -26
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PLUMS 698 855 590 -15 -31 STRAWBERRIES 346 337 328 -5 -3

2. THE LUXEMBOURG STATISTICAL OFFICE SAID THAT IF THE ITALIAN FRUIT HARVEST PROVES TO BE AS LOW AS IT PRESENTLY APPEARS, TOTAL FRUIT PRODUCTION IN THE EC WILL ONLY BE ABOUT 15 MILLION TONS COMPARED TO 18.1 MILLION TONS IN

1976 AND AN AVERAGE 17.7 MILLION IN 1972-76. THIS WOULD BE THE LOWEST LEVEL OF FRUIT PRODUCTION SINCE 1962. THE PESSIMISM IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY EXTREMELY UNFAVORABLE GROWING CONDITIONS IN THE SPRING AND CARRY-OVER EFFECTS OF THE 1976 DROUGHT.

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